

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01384 181548Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 NIC-01 OMB-01 OPR-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

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R 181530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8006

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TU

SUBJ: CLASHES BETWEEN LEFT-RIGHT EXTREMIST GROUPS

CONTINUE

REF: A) ANKARA 1358 B) ANKARA 1357 C) ANKARA 1200 (NOTAL)

1. THERE WERE RENEWED CLASHES BETWEEN GROUPS OF LEFIST AND RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS OVER THE FEBRUARY 15-16 WEEKEND IN MALATYA AND SEVEN OTHER PROVINCES WHICH RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS, 64 INJURIES, AND 223 PERSONS BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE INCIDENTS BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 15 WHEN DEMONSTRATIONS SPONSORED BY THE LEFIST TURKISH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (TOB-DER) WERE HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO PROTEST "FASCISM" AND THE HIGH COST OF LIVING. FIGHTING BETWEEN GROUPS OF LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS BROKE OUT IN MUS, MALATYA, TOKAT, AMASYA, BINGOL, KAHRAMAN, MARAS, AFYON AND ADIYAMAN. ONE DEATH WAS REPORTED IN AMASYA. CLASHES IN MALATYA AND ADIYAMAN ERUPTED AGAIN ON FEBRUARY 16 WITH ONE MORE DEATH BEFORE POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES FINALLY RESTORED ORDER.

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2. COMMENTING ON THE LATEST INCIDENTS, REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT SAID ON FEBRUARY 16, "A MINORITY WHICH WANTS TO CAPTURE THE STATE BY FORCE IS PREPARING AN UPRISING WHICH IS EVIDENTLY RUN FROM A CENTER AND THE STATE FORCES HAVE REMAINED LARGELY INEFFECTIVE BEFORE THIS UPRISING OF THE SMALL MINORITY, SIGNS OF WHICH WERE GIVEN DAYS AGO." ON FEBRUARY 17, ECEVIT TOLD THE RPP JOINT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP THAT "CERTAIN QUARTERS" HAD ENGAGED IN PLOTS TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY AS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE RPP FROM COMING TO POWER IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS. HE CONTINUED, "THE LATEST INCIDENTS ARE ONE OF THE MAJOR UPRISINGS IN THE HISTORY OF THE (TURKISH) REPUBLIC."

3. MEANWHILE, JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADER SULEYMAN DEMIREL SAID ON FEBRUARY 17 THE RIOTS WERE CAUSED BY VARIOUS PROVOCATIONS AND, HE CONTINUED, "THESE RALLIES HAVE ONLY ONE AIM -- TO DISRUPT THE PEACE OF THE COUNTRY AND CAUSE DISTURBANCES. ALL THESE EVENTS ARE THE RPP'S DOING ... THE RPP PROVOKES ANARCHY IN TURKEY ..."

4. PRIME MINISTER SADI IRMAK AFTER A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING FEBRUARY 16 CALLED UPON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO TAKE A "DEFINITE AND JOINT STAND" IN VIEW OF THE LATEST INCIDENTS AND SAID, "OUR STATE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PUT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL KINDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIONS." MEANWHILE, BOTH THE RPP AND JP HAVE CALLED FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES INTO THE LATEST INCIDENTS, AND HAVE SENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS TO THE SCENE.

5. COMMENT: THE LATEST INCIDENTS APPEAR TO BE A CONTINUATION OF THE KIND OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN GROUPS OF THE LEFIST AND RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS WHICH OCCURRED EARLIER IN THE MONTH AT ELAZIG (REF C). SO FAR, THESE INCIDENTS APPEAR TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH DOMESTIC GRIEVANCES AND ARE NOT RPT NOT PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COST OF LIVING, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA01384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-1017
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabgqu.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 1358, 75 ANKARA 1357, 75 ANKARA 1200
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLASHES BETWEEN LEFT-RIGHT EXTREMIST GROUPS CONTINUE
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006